#### 

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM
(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff: 303 Falcon Lane, Apt. 102, West Chester, PA 19382	
Address of Defendant: 1646 West Chester Pike, Suite 31, West Chester, PA 19382	
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 1646 West Chester Pike, Suite 31, West Chester, PA 19382	
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:	
Case Number: Judge: Date Terminated:	
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to any of the following questions:	
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?	
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit  yes  No  yes	
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court?	
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights  Yes  No  Yes	
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case this court except as noted above.  DATE: 10/24/2019  Attorney at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff  Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)	<b>1</b>
<u> </u>	
CIVIL; (Place n √ in one category only)	
A. Federal Question Cases:  1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts  2. FELA  3. Jones Act-Personal Injury  4. Antitrust  5. Patent  6. Labor-Management Relations  7. Civil Rights  8. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:  1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts  2. Airplane Personal Injury  3. Assault, Defamation  4. Marine Personal Injury  5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury  6. Labor-Management Relations  7. Civil Rights  8. Products Liability  8. Habeas Corpus  9. Securities Act(s) Cases  10. Social Security Review Cases  11. All other Federal Question Cases  (Please specify): violation of ADA/ADAAA	_
4. Federal Question Cases:  1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts  2. FELA  3. Jones Act-Personal Injury  4. Antitrust  5. Patent  6. Labor-Management Relations  7. Civil Rights  8. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:  1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts  2. Airplane Personal Injury  3. Assault, Defamation  4. Marine Personal Injury  5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury  6. Other Personal Injury  7. Products Liability  8. Habeas Corpus  9. Securities Act(s) Cases  10. Social Security Review Cases  11. All other Federal Question Cases	_
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JS 44 (Rev. 02/19)

#### CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

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I. (a) PLAINTIFFS REBECCA EARLEY 303 Falcon Lane, Apt. 102, West Chester, PA 19382				DEFENDANTS ALARM FUNDING 1646 West Cheste	ASSOCIA				Assocs.
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Chester							Chester		
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Chester (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)					
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(c) Attorneys (Firm Name,	Address, and Telephone Number	2r)		Attorneys (If Known)					
Edward C. Sweeney, Es	quire, Wusinich & Swe	eney, LLC							
231 Welsh Pool Rd., Sui	te 236, Exton, PA 193	341							
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Brief description of ca	use:		s amended by Ame			et Amendmei	nts	
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### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

REBECCA EARLEY

CIVIL ACTION

303 Falcon Lane, Apartment 102

West Chester, PA 19382

NO.

Plaintiff

VS.

:

ALARM FUNDING ASSOCIATES, LLC, d/b/a ALARM FUNDING ASSOCIATES 1646 West Chester Pike, Suite 31 West Chester, PA 19382

Defendant

TRIAL BY JURY OF 12

DEMANDED

#### **COMPLAINT**

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 1. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction of this case under 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1341 and 42 U.S.C. §2000e-5, inasmuch as the matters in controversy are brought pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), 42 U.S.C. §12101, et seq., as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments ("ADAAA"). It has supplemental jurisdiction for Plaintiff's damage claims under the Pennsylvania Human Relations Acts for her claims of disability discrimination.
- 2. Venue is proper in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania because at the time of the incidents in question, Plaintiff lived in Chester County, Pennsylvania. the incidents in question occurred in Chester County, Pennsylvania, and Defendant employed Plaintiff in Chester County, Pennsylvania.
- 3. Plaintiff has exhausted her administrative remedies by pursuing this matter before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She has timely filed this action after receiving a

Dismissal and Notice of Rights dated 8/5/19 and is filing this action within 90 days of receipt of said document. See Exhibit A attached hereto.

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 4. Plaintiff Rebecca Earley ("Plaintiff") is an adult Chester County resident living at 303 Falcon Lane Drive, Apartment 102, West Chester, PA 19382.
- 5. Defendant Alarm Funding Associates, LLC, d/b/a Alarm Funding Associates ("Defendant") is a Pennsylvania limited liability company with an office located at 1646 West Chester Pike, Suite 31, West Chester PA 19382, and with a service address of 113 East Evans Street, Suite D-1, West Chester, PA 19380.
  - 6. Plaintiff began working for Defendant on February 14, 2018.
- 7. Plaintiff was hired as an accounting representative for Defendant earning \$16.83 an hour.
- 8. Plaintiff informed Defendant in her early weeks of employment that she had post-traumatic stress disorder ("PTSD").
  - 9. Plaintiff's PTSD is a disability as defined by the ADA, as amended by the ADAAA.
- 10. Plaintiff was assigned (for about one hour a day) to help answer the phones for the receptionist.
- 11. Additionally, because the receptionist was out sick for several days, Plaintiff was assigned to this job for the whole shift.
  - 12. Defendant knew of Plaintiff's condition.
- 13. Anyone who answered phones at Defendant's business took a lot of angry calls from customers.
  - 14. Plaintiff's PTSD was exacerbated by the irate calls.

- 15. Plaintiff asked for help (reasonable accommodation) from management because she was having panic attacks during the week the receptionist was out sick (Monday, July 9, 2018 to Friday, July 13, 2018).
- 16. Initially, a Human Resource rep, Carolyn, called Plaintiff into her office during one of her panic attacks and tried to help her through her problem, but only exacerbated the situation when she closed the door and blocked the exit.
  - 17. Plaintiff indicated she needed to leave and left the workplace for several days.
  - 18. Plaintiff did this because of the panic attack she was experiencing.
- 19. Plaintiff kept daily contact with the company advising them of what treatment she was receiving.
- 20. Plaintiff was out of the office from Monday, 7/16/18, until the next Wednesday, 7/25/18.
  - 21. Plaintiff updated the Defendant as to her status during this time.
- 22. When Plaintiff returned to work on 7/25/18, she worked a couple of hours and was called into the office by Carolyn.
  - 23. Manager Greg Nailor was also in Carolyn's office.
- 24. Carolyn and Mr. Nailor sat down with Plaintiff and Mr. Nailor told her he could not accommodate her restrictions and they had to let her go.
  - 25. Carolyn and Mr. Nailor then sent Plaintiff out to get her belongings.
  - 26. Plaintiff avers in this case that there was a duty to accommodate her.
- 27. Plaintiff told the Defendant's management and/or Human Resources officials that she had a disability and she asked for help.
  - 28. There was no engagement of an interactive process.

- 29. Defendant fired Plaintiff because of Plaintiff's disability and/or its unwillingness to provide her with accommodations.
- 30. Additionally, the undue hardship standard is a heightened standard that is not easy for the Defendant to meet and is not applicable.
- 31. Additionally, Defendant retaliated against Plaintiff's request for accommodation by firing her.
  - 32. No interactive process was engaged by Defendant.
- 33. Defendant's conduct was because Plaintiff asked for accommodation under the ADA/ADAAA or PHRA, was because of discrimination as defined in the ADA/ADAAA or PHRA, was in retaliation for Plaintiff's reporting her ADA/ADAAA or PHRA disability and/or for asking for help (accommodation).
- 34. At all relevant times, Defendant's Human Resource Department was acting in a managerial capacity.
  - 35. Defendant knew of Plaintiff's disability at the time it fired her.
  - 36. Defendant's action was in retaliation for Plaintiff asking for ADA accommodations.
  - 37. Defendant has caused Plaintiff to lose wages because of its conduct.
- 38. Defendant caused Plaintiff to suffer compensatory damages, including pain, suffering and humiliation.
- 39. Defendant, by and through its agents, managers, employees, and HR officials (many of the foregoing holding positions of authority), acted with malice or reckless indifference to the federally-protected rights of Plaintiff, and in particular: (1) refused to accommodate her disability and symptoms; (2) discriminated against her because of her ADA/ADAAA condition; (3) retaliated against her for reporting to Defendant that she had PTSD and needed help

(accommodation); and (4) failed to appropriately investigate Plaintiff's rights under the ADA/ADAAA, including but not limited to keeping current with the body of law, regulations, and EEOC guidance on this area (return-to-work situations).

- 40. Plaintiff's counsel has incurred attorney's fees which are recoverable under the ADA/ADAAA.
  - 41. Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages under the ADA/ADAAA.

#### **COUNT I**

#### AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

## PLAINTIFF REBECCA EARLEY v. DEFENDANT ALARM FUNDING ASSOCIATES, LLC, d/b/a ALARM FUNDING ASSOCIATES

### REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION INCLUDING FAILURE TO ENGAGE IN THE INTERACTIVE PROCESS

- 42. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 41 herein by reference.
- 43. Plaintiff has an ADA-protected condition PTSD that meets the definition of a disability under the ADA/ADAAA.
- 44. Plaintiff was qualified to do the essential functions of her job, with or without reasonable accommodation.
  - 45. Plaintiff put the employer on notice that she had a disability.
  - 46. Plaintiff and/or her medical provider made a request for accommodation.
  - 47. Defendant failed to engage in the interactive process with Plaintiff.
  - 48. Defendant failed to reasonably accommodate Plaintiff.
- 49. Defendant required a "full duty" or "no restriction" return to work in violation of the ADA/ADAAA.
  - 50. Defendant had no undue hardship in accommodating Plaintiff.

- 51. Defendant terminated Plaintiff and thus she sustained an adverse action.
- 52. There is a causal link between the adverse actions and the employment actions herein.
- 53. Plaintiff suffered damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands the following relief: (1) wages, employment benefits or other compensation denied or lost by such violation, including front wages; (2) equitable relief such as rehiring; (3) punitive damages; (4) a reasonable attorney's fee; (5) the employee's expert witness fee, if any; (6) rehire to Defendant to her former position (with all back and future benefits she would have been entitled to); (7) damages for pain, suffering and humiliation; (8) medical expenses for additional treatment caused by the conduct of the employer; (9) interest; (10) an additional amount for the tax consequences for an award in Plaintiff's favor under the Third Circuit's ruling in Eshelman v. Agere Systems, Inc., 554 F.3d 426 (3d Cir. 2009); and (11) other costs of the action.

#### COUNT II

#### AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

## PLAINTIFF REBECCA EARLEY v. DEFENDANT ALARM FUNDING ASSOCIATES, LLC, d/b/a ALARM FUNDING ASSOCIATES

#### DISCRIMINATION

- 54. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 53 herein by reference.
- 55. Plaintiff suffered an adverse employment action, being terminated, and was treated differently in the terms, conditions, and benefits of her employment than people without a disability.
- 56. There is a causal link between the adverse actions and the employment actions herein, including the discharge of Plaintiff.

#### 57. Plaintiff suffered damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands the following relief: (1) wages, employment benefits or other compensation denied or lost by such violation, including front wages; (2) equitable relief such as rehiring; (3) punitive damages; (4) a reasonable attorney's fee; (5) the employee's expert witness fee, if any; (6) rehire to Defendant to her former position (with all back and future benefits she would have been entitled to); (7) damages for pain, suffering and humiliation; (8) medical expenses for additional treatment caused by the conduct of the employer; (9) interest; (10) an additional amount for the tax consequences for an award in Plaintiff's favor under the Third Circuit's ruling in Eshelman v. Agere Systems, Inc., 554 F.3d 426 (3d Cir. 2009); and (11) other costs of the action.

#### **COUNT III**

#### AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

### PLAINTIFF REBECCA EARLEY v. DEFENDANT ALARM FUNDING ASSOCIATES, LLC, d/b/a ALARM FUNDING ASSOCIATES

#### RETALIATION

- 58. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 57 herein by reference.
- 59. Plaintiff has an ADA-protected condition that meets the definition of a disability under the ADA/ADAAA.
- 60. Defendant knew of Plaintiff's assertions of rights and took adverse actions against her, including termination and not providing Plaintiff with reasonable accommodations and not engaging in an interactive process.
  - 61. Defendant knew or should have known that its legal position was without merit.

- 62. There is a causal link between the adverse actions and the employment actions herein, including the discharge of Plaintiff.
  - 63. Plaintiff suffered damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands the following relief: (1) wages, employment benefits or other compensation denied or lost by such violation, including front wages; (2) equitable relief such as rehiring; (3) punitive damages; (4) a reasonable attorney's fee; (5) the employee's expert witness fee, if any; (6) rehire to Defendant to her former position (with all back and future benefits she would have been entitled to); (7) damages for pain, suffering and humiliation; (8) medical expenses for additional treatment caused by the conduct of the employer; (9) interest; (10) an additional amount for the tax consequences for an award in Plaintiff's favor under the Third Circuit's ruling in Eshelman v. Agere Systems, Inc., 554 F.3d 426 (3d Cir. 2009); and (11) other costs of the action.

#### **COUNT IV**

#### PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS ACT

## PLAINTIFF REBECCA EARLEY v. DEFENDANT ALARM FUNDING ASSOCIATES, LLC, d/b/a ALARM FUNDING ASSOCIATES

### REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION INCLUDING FAILURE TO ENGAGE IN THE INTERACTIVE PROCESS

- 64. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 63 herein by reference.
- 65. Plaintiff has a PHRA-protected condition PTSD that meets the definition of a disability under the PHRA.
- 66. Plaintiff was qualified to do the essential functions of her job, with or without reasonable accommodation.

- 67. Plaintiff and/or her medical records put Defendant on notice that she had a disability and, based on such notice, Defendant was able to reasonably deduce a request for accommodation was made.
- 68. Plaintiff suffered adverse employment actions, including but not limited to termination, the requirement of a full-duty note, failure to engage in the interactive process and failure to reasonably accommodate her.
- 69. Plaintiff or her medical provider engaged the interactive process when a reasonable accommodation for her condition was requested.
  - 70. Defendant did not engage in the interactive process.
  - 71. Defendant failed to accommodate Plaintiff's PHRA-protected condition.
- 72. Defendant had no undue hardship in accommodating Plaintiff's requests for accommodation.
- 73. There is a causal link between the adverse actions and the employment actions herein, including the discharge of Plaintiff.
  - 74. Plaintiff suffered damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands the following relief: (1) wages, employment benefits or other compensation denied or lost by such violation, including front wages; (2) equitable relief such as rehiring; (3) a reasonable attorney's fee; (4) the employee's expert witness fee, if any; (5) rehire to Defendant to her former position (with all back and future benefits she would have been entitled to); (6) damages for pain, suffering and humiliation; (7) medical expenses for additional treatment caused by the conduct of the employer; (8) interest; (9) an additional amount for the tax consequences for an award in Plaintiff's favor under the Third Circuit's ruling in <u>Eshelman v. Agere Systems, Inc.</u>, 554 F.3d 426 (3d Cir. 2009); and (10) other costs of the action.

#### **COUNT V**

#### PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS ACT

## PLAINTIFF REBECCA EARLEY v. DEFENDANT ALARM FUNDING ASSOCIATES, LLC, d/b/a ALARM FUNDING ASSOCIATES

#### **DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION**

- 75. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 74 herein by reference.
- 76. Plaintiff has a PHRA-protected condition that meets the definition of a disability under the PHRA.
- 77. Plaintiff was qualified to do the essential functions of her job, with or without reasonable accommodation.
- 78. Plaintiff suffered adverse employment actions, including termination and being treated differently in the terms, conditions, and benefits of her employment than people without a disability.
  - 79. There is a causal link between the adverse actions and the employment actions herein.
  - 80. Plaintiff suffered damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands the following relief: (1) wages, employment benefits or other compensation denied or lost by such violation, including front wages; (2) equitable relief such as rehiring; (3) a reasonable attorney's fee; (4) the employee's expert witness fee, if any; (5) rehire to Defendant to her former position (with all back and future benefits she would have been entitled to); (6) damages for pain, suffering and humiliation; (7) medical expenses for additional treatment caused by the conduct of the employer; (8) interest; (9) an additional amount for the tax consequences for an award in Plaintiff's favor under the Third Circuit's ruling in Eshelman v. Agere Systems, Inc., 554 F.3d 426 (3d Cir. 2009); and (10) other costs of the action.

#### **COUNT VI**

#### PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS ACT

## PLAINTIFF REBECCA EARLEY v. DEFENDANT ALARM FUNDING ASSOCIATES, LLC, d/b/a ALARM FUNDING ASSOCIATES

#### **DISABILITY -- RETALIATION**

- 81. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 80 herein by reference.
- 82. Plaintiff has a PHRA-protected condition PTSD that meets the definition of a disability under the PHRA.
  - 83. Defendant took adverse actions against Plaintiff, including termination.
  - 84. There is a causal link between the adverse actions and the employment actions herein.
  - 85. Plaintiff suffered damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands the following relief: (1) wages, employment benefits or other compensation denied or lost by such violation, including front wages; (2) equitable relief such as rehiring; (3) a reasonable attorney's fee; (4) the employee's expert witness fee, if any; (5) rehire to Defendant to her former position (with all back and future benefits she would have been entitled to); (6) damages for pain, suffering and humiliation; (7) medical expenses for additional treatment caused by the conduct of the employer; (8) interest; (9) an additional amount for the tax

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consequences for an award in Plaintiff's favor under the Third Circuit's ruling in Eshelman v. Agere Systems, Inc., 554 F.3d 426 (3d Cir. 2009); and (10) other costs of the action.

#### Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/24/2019 BY: /s/Edward C. Sweeney

Edward C. Sweeney, Esquire I.D. #64565 Attorney for Plaintiff Wusinich & Sweeney, LLC 211 Welsh Pool Road, Suite 236 Exton, PA 19341

Phone: 610-594-1600 Fax: 610-594-6518 esweeney@wspalaw.com

Validation of signature code: ECS1942

# EXHIBIT A

Case 2:19-cv-05125-CMR Document 1 Filed 10/31/19 Page 16 of 16 RECEIVED

EEOC Form 161 (11/16)

Suite 31

West Chester, PA 19382

#### U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

AUG 0 9 2019

#### DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS

To:	303 Fa	ca Earley Ilcon Lane 2 Chester, PA 19382	FI	rom:	Philadelphia Distri 801 Market Street Suite 1300 Philadelphia, PA 1						
		On behalf of person(s) aggri CONFIDENTIAL (29 CFR §	<del>-</del>								
EEO	C Charge		Representative			Telephone No.					
		Legal	•								
530-	-2018-0	4970 Legal	Technician			(215) 440-2828					
THE	EEOC	IS CLOSING ITS FILE ON THIS	CHARGE FOR THE FO	LLO'	WING REASON:						
Ĺ		The facts alleged in the charge fail t	o state a claim under any of	the s	tatutes enforced by the	EEOC.					
		Your allegations did not involve a di	sability as defined by the An	nerica	ns With Disabilities Act	t.					
	The Respondent employs less than the required number of employees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes.										
		Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after the date(s) of the alleged discrimination to file your charge									
	X The EEOC issues the following determination: Based upon its investigation, the EEOC is unable to conclude that the information obtained establishes violations of the statutes. This does not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. No finding is made as to any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge.										
		The EEOC has adopted the findings	of the state or local fair em	ploym	ient practices agency t	hat investigated this charge.					
		Other (briefly state)			· _						
		(See	- NOTICE OF SUIT RI the additional information attack								
<b>Discr</b> You n lawsu	r <mark>iminat</mark> nay file uit <b>mus</b> t	Americans with Disabilities A ion in Employment Act: This was a lawsuit against the respondent be filed WITHIN 90 DAYS of you limit for filing suit based on a content of the suit based on a content of the limit for filing suit based on a content of the limit filing suit based on a content of the limit filing suit based on a content of the limit filing suit based on a content of the limit filing suit based on a content of the limit filing suit based on a content of the limit filing suit based on a content of the limit filing suit based on a content of the limit filing suit based on a content of the limit filing suit based on a content of the limit filing suit based on a content of the limit fil	ill be the only notice of di t(s) under federal law ba our receipt of this notic	smis: sed c ce; or	sal and of your right on this charge in fede r your right to sue ba	to sue that we will send you eral or state court. Your					
allege	ed EPA	ct (EPA): EPA suits must be file underpayment. This means that ile suit may not be collectible.	d in federal or state court backpay due for any vio	withi olatio	n 2 years (3 years fo ons that occurred <u>m</u>	r willful violations) of the nore than 2 years (3 years)					
			On behalf of the	Comn	nission						
		Jania Rt	allemon_			August 5, 2019					
Enclo	sures(s)		Jamie R. Williams District Directo			(Date Mailed)					
CC:	Hur AL	olyn Harris nan Resources Director ARM FUNDING ASSOCIATES 6 West Chester Pike	W 21	USIN 1 We	d C. Sweeney IICH & SWEENEY, I elsh Pool Road, Sui PA 19341						